

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/IWP:SHENDSCH:AES

APPROVED BY:IO/IWP:SHENDSCH

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P 300027Z NOV 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291370

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9222 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 18 NOV 76.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN, RESUMED SESSION DEC 6-17

FOR SHIRLEY HENDSCH

REF: STATE 281807

BEGIN SUMMARY:

1. WEO MEMBERS OF COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN (BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE, GREECE AND NETHERLANDS (OBSERVER) MET AT REQUEST BY U.S. MISSION TO DISCUSS RESUMED SESSION OF THE CSW. DURING THE DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DRAFT CONVENTION SHOULD BE THE SESSION'S FIRST PRIORITY AND DOCUMENT SHOULD BE COMPLETED DURING RESUMED SESSION. IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT CONVENTION SHOULD CALL FOR COMMITTEES WHICH WILL HANDLE COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATES PARTIES, NGO'S AND INDIVIDUALS.

2. RES ON COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE BROADER RANGE OF COMPLAINT PROCEDURES IF EFFORTS TO INCLUDE THEM IN CONVENTION ARE THWARTED BY EE COUNTRIES.

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THOSE ATTENDING MEETING AGREED TO LOBBY THIRD WORLD

COUNTRIES IN EFFORT TO GET ADOPTION OF RES.

3. ALL PRESENT SAID POSITIONS TAKEN BY THEIR GOVTS
AT NAIROBI RRE SOVIET DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA WOULD
BE SAME POSITION TAKEN AT CSW SESSION IF ISSUE IS
RAISED. END SUMMARY.

4. WEO MEMBERS OF COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN MET
OCT 17 TO DISCUSS ITEMS WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED
DURING CSW'S RESUMED SESSION. ALL PRESENT HAD DOUBTS
THAT THE AGENDA WOULD BE COMPLETED BETWEEN DEC 6-17 BUT
AGREED THAT COMPLETING DRAFT CONVENTION WAS FIRST
PRIORITY SINCE ECOSOC ESTABLISHED THE REQUIREMENT.
DANISH MISOFF NOTED ADDITIONAL REASON FOR COMPLETING
CONVENTION: EGYPT'S TERM ON THE COMMISSION EXPIRES
WITH THIS SESSION AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
ARAB REPLACEMENT MAY NOT BE EASY.

5. AS A MEANS OF PROTECTING RES 1503, DANES ARE CUR-
RENTLY PLANNING TO PROPOSE MACHINERY FOR COMPLAINTS
UNDER THE DRAFT CONVENTION ON WOMENSIMILAR
TO THOSE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS
COVENANTS. IF THIS MOVE FAILS, DENMARK AND THE
NETHERLANDS WILL RECOMMEND THAT NGO'S AND INDIVIDUALS
BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER COMPLAINTS UNDER COMMUNICATIONS
REF. U.S. SUPPORT WAS REQUESTED ON BOTH OF THESE
INITIATIVES.

6. BELGIUM MISOFF ANNOUNCED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY
IN BRUSSELS IS WORKING ON PROPOSALS FOR CONVENTION
AND HOPES THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR NEXT MEETING OF
WEO'S WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR DEC 2. COMMENT: MISSION
IS NOT SANGUINE THAT BELGIUM PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE
TO WEQ'S CONSIDERING DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED DURING
REGULAR SESSION. THEREFOREAN U.S. DELS SHOULD BE
PREPARED FOR TEDIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. IF BELGIUM
PROPOSALS ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN NEXT WEEK, MISSION WILL
FORWARD THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR STUDY. END COMMENT.

7. IN DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATIONS RES, FRENCH OFFICER
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NOTED, WHILE FRANCE IS OPPOSED TO RES, THE GOF WILL
TAKE NEUTRAL POSITION AND NOT RAISE THEIR OBJECTIONS
THAT EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN DICTATES THAT ALL
COMMUNICATIONS BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COM-
MISSION WITHOUT ANY DISTINCTIONS. COMMENT: WHILE
WEO'S AGREED THAT THEY MUST WORK TOGETHER CLOSELY ON
THE DRAFT CONVENTION AND THE COMMUNICATIONS RES, MISSION
STILL CONCERNED THAT FRENCH DEL MIGHT JUMP SHIP ON THE

COMMUNICATINS RES AND VOTE IN FAVOR OF TRANSFERRING
ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. WE CAN
ONLY NEGOTIATE AND HOPE ONCE SESSION OPENS. END COMMENT.

8. DENMARK RECOMMENDED THAT WORK PROCEDURES FOR RESUMED
SESSION BE ADOPTED AS SOON AS SESSION OPENS IN ORDER
THAT WORK BEGIN PROMPTLY. DANES WILL WORK ON
PROCEDURES AND PRESENT THEM FOR WEO APPROVAL.

9. EACH WEO MEMBER SELECTED THOSE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES
THEY WOULD LOBBY FOR SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS RES.
U.S. OFFERED TO TRY TO GET THAILAND SUPPORT.

10. DEPARTMENT ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD
APPRECIATE IF DEPARTMENT COULD FORWARD AGENDA FOR
RESUMED SESSION AND ANY OTHER AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS
WHICH WILL BE USED DURING MEETINGS. ASAP.

11. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO
CHECK WITH CSW SECT TO SEE IF, AS PROMISED, SECT HAS
REPRINTED DRAFT RES ON COMMUNICATIONS AND INCLUDED
EGYPT AS CO-SPONSOR ALONG WITH BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK
AND THE U.S.ABRAMS
UNQTE: ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WOMEN, HUMAN RIGHTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE291370
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/IWP:SHENDSCH:AES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760442-0867
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976113/aaaaachp.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 281807
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN, RESUMED SESSION DEC 6-17 FOR SHIRLEY HENDSCH
TAGS: SHUM, ECOSOC
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006